OUR FOOD PROBLEM

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Our urgent need of the day is food. We do not have enough of it to feed many hungry mouths. There have been of late quite a few serious internal disturbances over this problem. Some disruptive political elements have been using this "stick" - to "beat" the authorities with - not so much as to help find the food we want but to use this "food crisis" for their own political gains.

I believe we can be self sufficient in this dire need of our millions if we will keep the rats, monkeys and insects off what we grow and store - and if the procuring, storing, packing and distributing of food grains and food stuffs are all done on a properly planned system. Further, there is enough land in our country which can be opened up and brought under cultivation. Mere shouting of "slogans" and frequent expression of ideologies - put over to the millions with the theme "Land to the Tiller" - "Land to the Landless" - "Land Ceilings" and so on, will NOT produce the answer at the moment. We want food and it has got to be and it can be produced on our own soil IF the problem is, tackled with zest and zeal, with faith and courage as a "Military operation". Growing more food should receive "white hot" priority now and in our next Five Year Plan. Hungry mouths and empty stomachs will not help National Unity and so will not provide for National Strength.

We have the man who owns large areas of land which he cultivates on sound lines and produces large quantities of food. He has the wherewithal for this, money, knowledge and the will to do it. He has employees who have worked for him loyally and efficiently for years. For goodness sake let us leave him alone. Let us tell him to open up more land for cultivation, but get him by advice, with firmness where necessary, to look after the welfare of his employees but let this be on fair lines to the employer. Let us not undermine his authority by forcing him to "overdo" this, merely to sa-

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